

Appln. No.: 09/921,015
312 Amendment dated November 6, 2007
Response to Examiner's amendment issued October 4, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 3A. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3A, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3A.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance of claims 1, 14, 16, 18, and 25 mailed on October 4, 2007.

Applicants have prepared and efiled a continuation application, USSN 11/928,543 on October 30, 2007, directed to the subject matter of the allowed claims, for example, claiming patentable aspects of the transaction monitor separately from the rule validator before the payment of the Issue Fee in this case. As applicants reviewed the Examiner's allowed claim set, minor typographical errors were noted in claims 1, 14 and 25. Then, during the preparation of the continuation application, a problem with consistency in identifying transaction monitor 211 was noted in the specification and drawing, Figure 3A, that requires correction for clarification. The transaction monitor 211 should not be confused with directory 209. These changes were not submitted earlier because they were not discovered earlier.

Applicants respectfully submit that pursuant to MPEP 714.16 and 2163.07, the meaning of any amended paragraph or Figure 3A is not changed by the amendments thereto. The amendments to the specification paragraphs and drawings merely conform the specification and drawings to one another and to provide consistency within. Applicants respectfully submit that they do not constitute new matter requiring any additional search or examination.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of the claims herein is not affected by this amendment, and they remain patentable for the reasons set forth in the Notice of Allowability.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification paragraphs, the claims and Figure 3A are necessary for clear and proper disclosure of the invention, and respectfully request entry of the same.

However, if the Examiner has any questions or believes for any reason that the amendments should not be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 624-7326 as soon as possible before the Issue Fee due date of **January 4, 2008**.

Respectfully submitted,

POWELL GOLDSTEIN, LLP

Date: November 14, 2007

By: /Thomas H. Jackson/
Thomas H. Jackson, Registration No. 29,808
Powell Goldstein LLP
901 New York Avenue NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4413
Tel: (202) 624-7325 (direct)
(202) 347-0066 (main)
Fax: (202) 624-7222

THJ/mmd
Attachment: Replacement sheet for Figure 3A